

REMARKS

These remarks are responsive to the Office Action of July 5, 2006. Claims 1- 4, 9, and 11-15 are pending. Claims 1-4, 9, and 11-15 stand rejected. By the amendment above, claims 1-15 are cancelled and new claims 16-27 have been added. Antecedent basis for the new claims exists throughout the specification, including the original claims and at paragraphs [0021] and [0023-0024].

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Wall (U.S. Patent No. 3,624,385) are respectfully traversed.

The courtesy of the Examiner in granting a personal interview to the undersigned on August 10, 2006 is appreciated. In the course of the interview it was agreed that claims directed to a method, rather than a device per se, would be entered and may help to confirm some of the many distinctions between the present invention and the device of Wall '385.

These distinctions include, for instance, the fact that Applicant provides a method in which a device of the present invention can be incorporated into a fresh floral display. By contrast, and at what would appear to be its closest, Figure 2 and corresponding Figure 5 of Wall seem to describe a considerably larger device that can be used for a variety of purposes, including as a "decorative accessory" with an existing corsage. In turn, the optical fibers of the present invention can be included amongst the individual flowers of the display, in order to illuminate them, rather than being present separately and behind the flowers, as would appear to be the case with Wall.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

/Philip M. Goldman/

Philip M. Goldman

Registration No. 31,162

Customer No. 22859
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
200 South Sixth Street, Suite 4000
Minneapolis, MN 55402-1425 USA
Telephone: (612) 492-7088
Facsimile: (612) 492-7077

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